

the slopes of the gallery. It should be mentioned that the private sailors and marines in the pit were not guarded or in any way interfered with by the officers or the police. There was a small crowd of people for the exercise of any discipline, as the men were absolutely quiet and as orderly as it was possible to be from beginning to end of the entertainment, but they were entirely at liberty to keep their places or go out as they pleased. When the curtain fell on the final episode of the drama performed, the Celestials had no means of knowing that the moment of their departure had arrived—at home they were told that the whole day and are some times continued from day to day for a week—so that they kept their seats until the rest of the large audience rose and left the theatre. But a signal from one of the captains in the private box they finally quitted their places, filed steadily and quietly into the street, and in a few minutes were marching, with their peculiar light and music, down Westgate Road, on route for their steamship—*Glasgow Mail*.

THE FRENCH MAIL.

The M. M. steamer *Ami*, from Marseilles June 19th, with the London mail of the 17th ult., arrived here yesterday morning. The following telegrams are taken from Ceylon and London papers:

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE BY THE QUEEN. The Queen laid the foundation stone of the Imperial Institute at South Kensington yesterday. The ceremony was one of exceptional brilliancy. The Indian princes attended, and it is estimated that seven thousand spectators were present. Her Majesty replied to an address of the President, the Prince of Wales, said that the Institute would record the progress and the splendid results of the work of the world, and hoped that this work would be of material assistance in combining the resources of the British Empire for the common good and would conduce to world peace, her Colonies and India together in one harmonious united community.

THE NEW MAIL CONTRACT. London, 4th July. The House of Commons agreed to the new Mail Contract after a protracted debate without a division.

OPENING OF THE BULGARIAN ASSEMBLY. The Grand Sobor was opened today, the proceedings were of a purely formal character.

THE AMIR OF THE MAROCHI. Bombay, 5th July. It is reported that the Amir has marched with 12,000 men to Khelat and intends marching on Durrani.

THE AFGHAN BOUNDARY QUESTION. ST. PETERSBURG, 5th July. Sir West Ridgway has received from London. The settlement of the Afghan boundary question based on mutual concessions is shortly expected.

SEVERE DROUGHT IN ENGLAND. BIRMINGHAM, 5th July. A special telegram to the *Pioneer* dated London, 4th ult., says that the farmers in the north-western counties are being compelled to export their grain owing to the want of rain. The root and fruit crops are suffering severely, and many towns are short of water.

MADRAS RAINFALL. Madras, 4th July. The Bank of Madras has received a dividend of 14 per cent. with £1,250,000 reserve fund, and £750,000 carried forward.

THE STATE OF AFGHANISTAN. LONDON, 27th June. On the 18th instant a severe engagement took place in Khatlan between Mir Mahmud Khan and his Governor Abdul Wakil in which the latter was again defeated. Mir Mahmud lost 60 men. A force from Kabul has reached Julai Argab and is making its way to rescue the rebels. Desultory skirmishing has taken place between the Amir's troops and the Southern Ghilzais.

THE AMIR'S GILZAI WARRIORS. The Northern Ghilzais are wavering and departing from their neutral attitude, and are promised to join the Southern tribes immediately after the Eid festival, which closes the Ramadan fast. According to popular opinion the Amir's rule is at its last legs, and the tribes of Eastern Afghanistan seem very generally pleased at the prospect of its early expiry.

SINIA, 26th June. A fight is reported to have taken place between the Ghilzais and Gholam Hyder's force near At Isatad. The Ghilzais were defeated with heavy loss.

Further details which have been received of the engagement between Gholam Hyder and the Ghilzais are contradictory reports of the affair. Gholam Hyder is reported to have lost 500 men, and the Ghilzais to have lost 1,000 men. The Tarakhi, says, was only a skirmish, in which the Amir's troops were repulsed by 500 of their men, and 500 of the Amir's troops were killed and wounded. The date of the engagement is unknown.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE. THURSDAY, 21st July.

REPORT CARGOES. For German steamship *Lydia*, sailed on the 17th July. For *Harve*—11 packages mer. chandise and 18 cases tea. For *Harve* option Hamburg and London—233 packages mer. chandise and 151 packages tea. For *Harve* Hamburg—726 packages mer. chandise and 118 packages tea, 184 bales feathers, 100 packages rattan shavings, 50 cases bristles, 10 cases palm-leaf fans, 5 cases chinaware, and 5 cases cigars. For *Harve* option London—197 packages mer. chandise.

For British steamship *Opaka*, sailed on the 16th July. For *Opaka*—35,612 lbs. coconuts, 24,000 lbs. coconuts, 10,450 lbs. coconuts, 244 bales waste silk, and 124 rolls matting.

For steamship *Glasgow*, sailed on the 16th July. For *Glasgow*—15,410 lbs. coconuts, 68,021 lbs. coconuts, 10,450 lbs. coconuts, 273 bales waste silk, 10 cases bristles, 10 packages cases, 40 chests Persian opium, and 7 packages sundries.

Quotations are:— New Malwa.....\$525 per picul, allo. of 13 to 24 cadies. Old Malwa.....\$550 per picul, allo. of 13 to 24 cadies. Old Malwa.....\$570 per picul, allo. of 13 to 24 cadies. Patna (New).....\$525 to \$535 per chest. Benares (New).....\$470 to \$485 per chest.

ON LONDON.— Telegraphic Transfer.....3/2 Bank Bill, on demand.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 3 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Documentary Bills, at 4 months.....3/2

ON PARI.— Bank Bill, on demand.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 3 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2

ON CALCUTTA.— Bank Bill, on demand.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 3 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2

ON SHANGHAI.— Bank Bill, on demand.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 3 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2

ON HONGKONG.— Bank Bill, on demand.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 3 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2

ON YOKOHAMA.— Bank Bill, on demand.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 3 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2

ON MANILA.— Bank Bill, on demand.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 3 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2

ON CANTON.— Bank Bill, on demand.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 3 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2

ON SHANGHAI.— Bank Bill, on demand.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 3 months sight.....3/2 Bank Bill, at 4 months sight.....3/2 Credits, at 4 months sight.....3/2

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Straits Marine Insurance Company, Limited—\$300,000. Straits Fire Insurance Company, Limited—\$100,000. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—\$1 per cent. prem. Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.'s Shares—\$102 per cent. sell. Indo China Steam Navigation Co.'s Shares—10 per cent. discount. China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited—\$30 per cent. discount, nominal. Douglas Steamship Company, Limited—\$50 per share. Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$125 per share. Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$190 per share. China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$139 per share. Anglo Siam Company's Shares—\$51 per share. Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$110 per share. Pureit Tea, Milling, and Smuggling Company—\$30 per share. Panjia and Sanghaio Dun Samantia Mining Company, Limited—\$131 per share, fully paid up, sales and sellers. Pawan Sugar Cultivation Company—Tls. 18 per share. Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited—\$35 per share. Hongkong and Macao Glass Manufacturing Co., Limited—60 per cent. discount. A. S. Watson & Co., Limited—45 per cent. premium. (Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited—\$146, buyers. Singapore Insurance Company, Limited—\$18 per share. Chinese Imperial Loan of 1894—6 per cent. premium. Chinese Imperial Loan of 1896—8 per cent. premium. Chinese Imperial Government 1898 Dollar Loan—1 per cent. premium.

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE. (From Messrs. Paine & Co.'s Barometer.) July 21st. Barometer—5.00. Thermometer—5.00. Wind—S.W. Rain—0.00. Humidity—100.00. Clouds—100.00. Direction of wind—S.W. Force of wind—S.W. State of sky—Cloudy. Direction of rain—S.W. Force of rain—S.W. State of sky—Cloudy.

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER. 21st July, 1897, at 4 P.M. Station. Barometer. Thermometer. Wind. Rain. Humidity. Clouds. Direction of wind. Force of wind. State of sky. Direction of rain. Force of rain. State of sky.

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DESTINATION	VESSEL'S NAME	CAPTAIN	AT	FOR FREIGHT APPLY TO	TO BE DESPATCHED
LONDON, via Suez Canal	Ravenna (str.)	A. S. Danell.	Hongkong	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On 28th inst., at 4 P.M.
LONDON, via Suez Canal	Adelphi (str.)	Anderson	Hongkong	Butterfield & Swire	On 28th inst., at 4 P.M.
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LONDON, via Suez Canal	Adelphi (str.)	Anderson	Hongkong	Butterfield & Swire	On 28th inst., at 4 P.M.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

NETHERLANDS INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED. FOR AMOY. THE Company's Steamship "BORNEO." Captain Wilkes, will be despatched as above TO-DAY, the 22nd inst., at Noon. For Freight or Passage, apply to JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Agents. Hongkong, 20th July, 1897. [1385]

FOR LONDON. THE British Steamer "BENGLOE." Captain Farquhar, will be despatched as above TO-DAY, the 22nd inst., at 4 P.M. For Freight or Passage, apply to GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents. Hongkong, 20th July, 1897. [1389]

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY. FOR LONDON, via SUEZ CANAL. THE Company's Steamship. Captain Anderson, will be despatched as above TO-DAY, the 22nd inst., at 4 P.M. For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents. Hongkong, 19th July, 1897. [1285]

FOR NEW YORK, via SUEZ CANAL. THE Steamship "GLENFRUIN." Captain Norman, will be despatched as above MONDAY, the 25th inst., at 4 P.M. This steamer has superior accommodation for passengers, and carries a Doctor and Stewardess. For Freight or Passage, apply to JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Agents. Hongkong, 20th July, 1897. [1388]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED. FOR PORT DARWIN, SYDNEY, AND MELBOURNE, via POOCHOW. THE Company's Steamship "TSINAN." W. N. Allison, Commander, will be despatched as above MONDAY, the 25th inst., at 4 P.M. The attention of Passengers is directed to the Superior Accommodation offered by this Steamer. First-class Saloons and Cabins are situated forward of the Engines. Second Class Passengers are berthed in the Poop. A Refreshing Chamber ensures the supply of Fresh Provisions during the entire voyage. An experienced Surgeon is carried. For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents. Hongkong, 19th July, 1897. [1373]

FOR LONDON AND HAMBURG. THE Steamship "DENBIGHSHIRE." Dryer, Commander, will be despatched for the above Ports about the 25th inst. For Freight or Passage, apply to ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents. Hongkong, 18th July, 1897. [1301]

FOR SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE. (Calling at Port Darwin and taking through cargo for Darwin, Adelaide, Tasmania, New Zealand, &c.) THE British Steamer "AFGHAN." Captain Hughes, will be despatched as above on TUESDAY, the 26th inst. For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents. Hongkong, 21st July, 1897. [1394]

FOR SHANGHAI, via AMOY. (Taking Cargo and Passengers at through rates for Ningbo, Chefoo, New Wang, Tientsin, Hankow, and Pootung via YAMAGUCHI.) THE Company's Steamship "LAERTES." Captain Seale, will be despatched as above on THURSDAY, the 28th inst. For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents. Hongkong, 21st July, 1897. [1394]

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VESSELS ADVERTISED AS LOADING.

DESTINATION	VESSEL'S NAME	CAPTAIN	AT	FOR FREIGHT APPLY TO	TO BE DESPATCHED
LONDON, via Suez Canal	Ravenna (str.)	A. S. Danell.	Hongkong	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On 28th inst., at 4 P.M.
LONDON, via Suez Canal	Adelphi (str.)	Anderson	Hongkong	Butterfield & Swire	On 28th inst., at 4 P.M.
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LONDON, via Suez Canal	Adelphi (str.)	Anderson	Hongkong	Butterfield & Swire	On 28th inst., at 4 P.M.
LONDON, via Suez Canal	Adelphi (str.)	Anderson	Hongkong	Butterfield & Swire	On 28th inst., at 4 P.M.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

U. S. MAIL LINE. PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY. THROUGH TO NEW YORK, via OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND TOUCHING AT YOKOHAMA AND SAN FRANCISCO. THE U. S. Mail Steamer "CITY OF NEW YORK" will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on SATURDAY, the 23rd July, at THREE P.M., taking Passengers and Freight for Japan, the United States, and Europe. Through Bills of Lading issued for transportation to Yokohama and other Japan Ports, to San Francisco, to Atlantic and United States Ports, and to Europe, will be received at the Company's Office until FIVE P.M. the day previous to sailing. RETURN PASSAGES.—Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (or vice versa) within six months, will be allowed a discount of 20 per cent. Return Fare; if re-embarking within one year an allowance of 10 per cent. will be made from Return Fare. Pre-paid Return Passage Orders, available for one year, will be issued at a Discount of 25 per cent. from Return Fare. These discounts do not apply to through fares from China and Japan to Europe. Freight will be received on board until 4 P.M. on the day previous to sailing. Parcel Packages will be received at the Office until 5 P.M. on the day previous to sailing. For further information as to Passages and Freight, apply to the Company's Office, No. 50A, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong. Houtzong, 1st July, 1897. [13]

STEAM FOR SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUZ, BRINDISI, GENOA, ANTWERP, BREMEN, AND HAMBURG. PORTS IN THE LEVANT, BLACK SEA AND BALTIC PORTS. LONDON, NEW YORK, BOSTON, BALTIMORE, NEW ORLEANS, GALVESTON, AND SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS. THE COMPANY'S STEAMERS WILL CALL AT SOUTHAMPTON TO LAND PASSENGERS AND LOGGERS. N.B.—Cargo can be taken on THROUGH BILLS OF LADING FOR THE PRINCIPAL PLACES IN RUSSIA.

ON THURSDAY, the 4th day of August, 1897, at FOUR P.M. the Company's Steamship "PREFECT" will sail for SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUZ, BRINDISI, GENOA, ANTWERP, BREMEN, AND HAMBURG. PORTS IN THE LEVANT, BLACK SEA AND BALTIC PORTS. LONDON, NEW YORK, BOSTON, BALTIMORE, NEW ORLEANS, GALVESTON, AND SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS. The Steamer has special accommodation and carries a Doctor and Stewardess. For Further Particulars, apply to MELCHERS & Co., Agents. Hongkong, 11th July, 1897. [7]

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